(c) whether there is any proposal to revive annual licence fee for the Radio and TV or impose a one-time tax to make the Prasar Bharati Corporation financially viable?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) As per the Indian Readership Survey, 2005, the estimated number of TV households in the country is 87.53 million. Further, as per the information available from Consumer Electronics and TV Manufacturers' Association (CETMA) sources for 2001, the Radio ownership is estimated to be 129.68 million.

(b) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting does not maintain any centralized data on the estimated number of Radios and TVs sold every year in the country.

(c) No, Sir.

Downlinking of programmes and advertisements by foreign news channels

532 SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to prohibit foreign news channels downlinking into India from carrying any programmes or advertising specifically targeted for the Indian audience; and

(b)whether this will not only hit the foreign news channels like BBC/ CNN but also some of the foreign sports channels which are currently airing news capsules during the course of the day?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The Government has recently issued downlinking guidelines for television channels uplinked form abroad and downlinked in India. These guidelines, *inter alia,* provide that no News and Current Affairs channel shali be permitted to be downlinked if it does not meet the following additional conditions; (i) That it does not carry any advertisements aimed at Indian viewers; (ii) That it is not designed specifically for Indian audience; (iii) That it is a standard international channel; (iv) That is has been permitted to be telecast in the country in its uplinking by the regulatory authority of that country. However, the

government can waive/modify the condition No. (i) above on a case-by-case basis. For the purpose of the downlinking guidelines, any channel, which has any element of news and current affairs in its programme content, will be deemed to be a news and current affairs channel.

Ban on smoking scenes in films

533. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is putting pressure on the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to ease ban on smoking scenes in the films;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Easing of the ban has not been requested. However, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have been requested to look into some of the implementational aspects of the notification in the light of the reservations expressed by the film industry. The matter is also *subjudice* as a case has been filed against the notification in the High Court of Delhi.

FM channels for teaching students

534. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan before his Ministry to have inclusive FM Channels for teaching students in the remote areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would think of having such a facility which will immensely help the students, particularly in the rural, remote and far flung areas to reply their queries and also helps by way of having on-air classrooms?